

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 20739 240122Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00  
PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 HA-05 /045 W  
-----034159 240125Z /61  
R 240117Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8073  
INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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EO 11652: NA  
TAGS: SHUM, TH  
SUBJ: THAMMASAT 18 TRIAL

REF: BANGKOK 13064

1. BANGKOK NEWSPAPERS REPORTED JULY 19 THAT THE TRIAL OF THE THAMMASAT 18 DEFENDANTS WILL COMMENCE TWICE WEEKLY SESSIONS ON WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY OF EACH WEEK, BEGINNING IN OCTOBER. PRESENTLY, THE COURT MEETS ONCE A WEEK ON THURSDAY. IT WAS REPORTED THAT THE COURT ORDERED THE INCREASED SESSIONS IN RESPONSE TO A DEFENSE MOTION TO SPEED UP THE TRIAL.

2. THONGBAI THONGBAO, HEAD OF THE TEAM OF LAWYERS FOR THE DEFENDANTS, TOLD THE EMBASSY THAT, ALTHOUGH THE DEFENSE DID REQUEST A SPEED-UP OF THE TRIAL, THE COURT'S PROPOSED SCHEDULE IS NOT WHAT THEY REQUESTED. HE EXPLAINED THAT MANY MEMBERS OF THE DEFENSE TEAM ARE ALSO INVOLVED IN ANOTHER TRIAL WITH SESSIONS ALREADY SCHEDULED ON WEDNESDAY OF EACH WEEK AND THEREFORE ARE UNAVAILABLE FOR THE THAMMASAT TRIAL ON THAT DAY. THONGBAI INDICATED HE WOULD ASK THE COURT TO CHANGE THE DAY OF THE WEEK FOR THE PROPOSED SECOND SESSION. THE DEFENSE PREFERS SATURDAY

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SESSIONS BUT WOULD ACCEPT MONDAY OR FRIDAY AS WELL.

3. THE DEFENSE TEAM WILL ATTEMPT TO CHANGE THE SECOND WEEKLY SESSION FROM WEDNESDAY AND NO DOUBT FEELS THE PROSECUTION DELIBERATELY CHOSE THE MOST INCONVENIENT DAY FOR MEMBERS OF THE DEFENSE TEAM. HOWEVER, MANUT BUNNAG, NOTED HUMAN RIGHTS LEADER, SEEMED RELAXED OVER THE MATTER

IN A RECENT CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF AND INDICATED THAT  
SOME ACCEPTABLE ACCOMMODATION COULD BE REACHED.  
O'DONOHUE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REPORTS, TRIALS, STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, COURT PROCEEDINGS  
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**Draft Date:** 24 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978BANGKO20739  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780302-1015  
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**Reference:** 78 BANGKOK 13064  
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**Subject:** THAMMASAT 18 TRIAL  
**TAGS:** SHUM, TH  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014